

The Groundplane



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome to SBARA 2009 !!!!



Happy New Year to all the SBARA members and their family. Hopefully it will be a good year for all our members. I know that as far as amateur radio, things are looking up. We are officially in a new solar cycle, which means that propagation is getting better. The term of FCC Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate came to an end on

January 3 as the 111th Congress convened. Hopefully the new Commissioner will enforce the rules and regulations regarding one service interfering with another. Your response to the membership renewal request has been heartwarming. Thanks you for sending your renewal checks in a timely manner.

For me, the excitement of radio sport contesting is high since the season is in full swing. Last week-end, with the help of Umesh Godke K6VUG, I operated the ARRL RTTY Roundup for the first time. You can now do RTTY with your PC/MAC and free software called

MMTTY.

SBARA is planning an exciting year of presentations and activities, like Field Day. Hopefully you will have time in your busy schedules to attend meetings at Hurricane Electric on the 2nd Friday of every month. The board is still looking to fill two positions. Doesn't take a lot of your time and definitely gets you more involved in this great hobby. Think about joining the board to participate in the continued growth of your association.

73, AI – WT6K

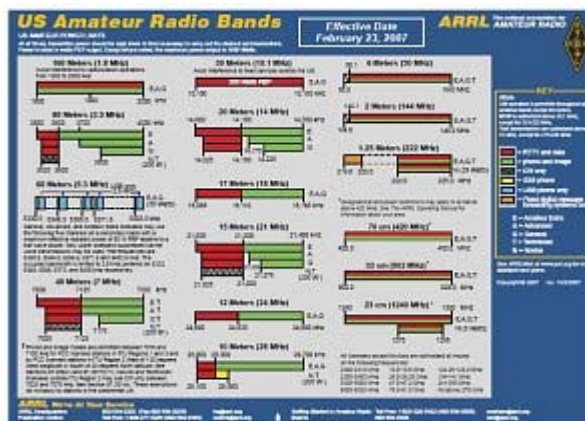
Special Points of Interest....

- **SBARA Kicks-Off 2009 with January Meeting**
- **Sharpen Your Communication Skills by working Primevia**
- **Remember the Woodpecker?**

Inside this

Get you Petals to the Metal	2
Woodpecker	2
Winter Field Day 2009	3
HRO Ad	4
Board Members	5
Meeting Location/Wrapper	5

US Amateur Bands



The Groundplane

Fremont Freewheelers Bike Club



"Fremont Freewheelers Bike Club asking SBARA to assist with Primivera in April" Consider Volunteering if you are able to!!

SBARA has been asked to provide radio support for the Primivera bicycle Ride on Sunday April 19, 2009.

The bike ride starts and ends at Logan High School in Union City, travels south to Ed Levin Park, East/North up Calaveras Rd to Sunol, East through southern Pleasanton and Livermore to the top of the Altamont pass then west back through central Livermore and Pleasanton,

over the Dublin grade next to 580, south down Palomares Rd. to Niles Canyon and back to Logan High School. There are options for rides of 25,40,60 and 100 miles.

We need to cover 5 aid stations, plus net control and as many SAG vehicles as possible, up to 17. The most important SAG areas to cover with Ham Radio are Calaveras Rd and Palomares Canyon as cell phones do not work

there. An HT with any outside the car antenna will work for SAG. An HT with a rubber ducky and 11 hours of battery will suffice at all the aid stations. We will be using the 147.045+ repeater on Sunol ridge. Except in the area of Ed Levin where we will use W6MLB 145.43-

Morning only or afternoon only shifts are available. Contact Tony Flusche at: TonyF@att.net or you may call him at: 510-247-3220.

What is this Strange Photo—Resulted in Weird Sounds



Ham Radio Crystal Balls!! Do you Remember When the Woodpecker play Havoc with the Bands?

Besides a junk man's fantasy? This is actually the

old Russian "Woodpecker" or the over the horizon radar system antenna's. This is what gave US and ultimately the world HF reception fits because of it's "unique" QRM during the late 1970's to the late 1980's.

The Russian woodpecker was a notorious Soviet signal that could be heard on the short-wave radio bands

worldwide between July 1976 and December 1989. It sounded like a sharp repetitive tapping noise at 10 Hz giving rise to the "woodpecker" name. The random frequency disrupted

legitimate broadcast, amateur radio, and utility transmissions and resulted in thousands of complaints by many countries worldwide. Starting in 1976, a new and powerful radio signal was detected worldwide and

quickly dubbed the Woodpecker by amateur radio operators. Transmission power on some woodpecker transmitters was estimated to be as high as 10 MW EIRP. As well as disrupting shortwave amateur radio stations and broadcasting it could be sometimes be heard over telephone circuits due to the strength of the signals.

This led to the thriving industry of "Woodpecker filters" and noise blanker's.

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SPAR Announces Winter Field Day 2009

Field Day is perhaps the most popular of the many activities enjoyed by Amateurs. Every June the bands come alive with improvised signals proving the ability to respond to emergencies. The event also offers an opportunity for camaraderie and a chance to test ourselves in less than ideal circumstances, however, emergencies and natural disasters don't always happen in the summer. Winter winds, icy limbs and bitter cold replace the thunderstorms and blistering heat of summer. To test our abilities to operate in the winter, in 2007 SPAR established a Winter Field Day event and invited all Amateur Radio operators to participate. In both 2007 and 2008 the event was enjoyed by many and considered a success and has been designated an annual event to be held the last full weekend each January. Therefore it is time to issue the invitation for the Third Annual SPAR Winter Field Day!

The 2009 Winter Field Day will be held from 1700 UCT (12:00 noon EST) Saturday January 24, 2009 through 1700 UCT (12:00 noon EST) Sunday January 25, 2009. The object of the event is familiar to most Amateur Radio operators: set up emergency-style communications and make as many contacts as possible during the 24 hour period. The rules encourage as many contacts on as many bands and modes as possible, because during a real emergency, the most important factor is the ability to communicate, regardless of band, mode or distance.

The official rules can be found at the SPAR web site. The event is open to all amateurs, although we encourage everyone to join in the discussions and other activities sponsored by SPAR. Information about SPAR can be found on the SPAR Home Page. Membership is free and open to all amateurs who want to encourage technical and operating skills. You can register by going to the SPAR Forum and registering, using your amateur callsign as your user name.

<http://www.spar-hams.org/contests/winterfd/index.php?pg=2>

Please join with SPAR in promoting amateur radio and keeping our bands alive!

SBARA Meeting Location

Our meeting location is at Hurricane Electric. The address in Fremont is:

760 Mission Court — Come to the meeting. Bring your HF transceiver (and antenna) or HT !

Talk-In 147.015Mhz. +600

Also consider joining us at Wok City Diner for Dinner at 6PM - mingle with your fellow SBARA members!!!!

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2210 Livingston St., #4606
(510) 534-5757
(800) 854-6046
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I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
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SUNNYVALE, CA

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(800) 854-6046
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PAGE 1



IC-706MKIIG HF/VHF Transceiver

- All mode HF/5M/2M/70CM
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- AF-DSP • Plug and Play Filters • No Soldering
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Low Pricing!



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- Advanced CW functions
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DJ-196T 2W HT

- 5 Watt out
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- 8 IF roofing filters

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Open Position

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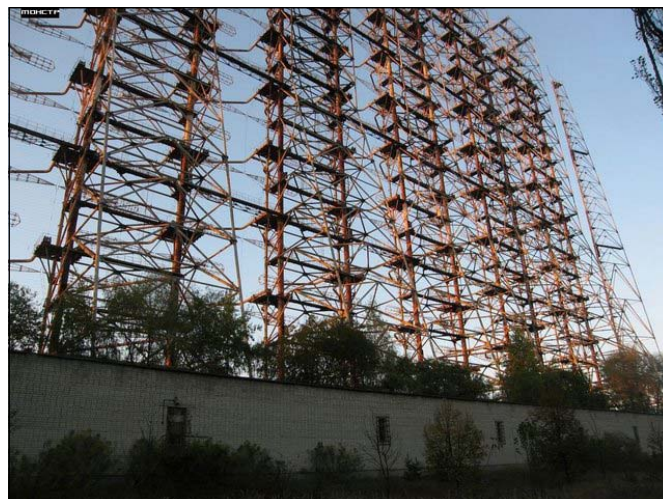
Jim Wood, KE6IVA

Program Facilitator

Al Rendon, WT6K

Refreshments

Open Position



Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

WA6PWW -	147.015 +600Khz, PL 103.5
WA6PWW -	223.900 -500Khz, PL 107.2
WA6PWW -	442.600 +5Mhz, PL 107.2
K6AIR -	146.940 -600Khz, PL 123.0
K6AIR -	441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0
ARES -	Tuesday @ 7:30pm -
	147.015 + PL 103.5

The **South Bay Amateur Radio Association** is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. The club has been in existence since 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, a California not-for-profit tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes. We sponsor training for new hams, license

examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

SBARA meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at Hurricane Electric in Fremont, California. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM. After conducting business, coffee

and snacks are served while we socialize. Following the break, a program of interest will be presented. All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome. We hope to see you there!